

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4-7 and 13 as indicated among the following complete set of pending claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A carpet tucker and trimmer, comprising:

a base;

a handle connected to the base, wherein the combined handle and base plate comprise a base unit for the device;

at least one wheel connected to the base [or to the handle] unit;

at least one blade supported on the base [or on the handle] unit for trimming carpet; and

a trailings guide supported on the base [or on the handle] unit and extending generally between the at least one wheel and the at least one blade.

Claim 2. (Original) The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 1, wherein:

the base generally defines a plane;

the carpet tucker further comprises a flange extending transversely to the plane;

the flange supports the at least one wheel; and

the trailings guide is integral with the flange.

Claim 3. (Original) The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 2, wherein the trailings guide comprises:

a central portion generally parallel to the handle; and

at least a first end connected to and extending away from the central portion.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim [2] 3, wherein:

the at least one blade has an exposed cutting edge; and

the first end extends away from the central portion to a position generally between the at least one wheel and the cutting edge.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim [2] 3, wherein:

the trailings guide further comprises a second end extending away from the central portion in a direction generally opposite to the first end;

the at least one blade is a first blade and the base has a second blade supported thereon, the second blade having an exposed cutting edge; and

the first and second ends extend away from the central portion to positions generally between the at least one wheel and respective cutting edges of the first and second blades.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim [2] 3, wherein:

the flange is positioned between the at least one wheel and the handle; and

the first end extends away from the handle toward a plane of the at least one wheel to guide carpet trailings away from the at least one wheel as the trailings move generally toward the central portion.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim [2] 3, wherein:

the at least one blade is at least two blades including a first blade and a second blade;

the trailings guide further comprises a second end extending away [from] from the central portion in a direction generally opposite to the first end; and

the first and second ends of the trailings guide extend away from the handle toward the plane of the at least one wheel and between the at least one wheel and the respective first and second blades to guide carpet trailings away from the at least one wheel as the trailings move generally toward the central portion from both the first and second ends so that the carpet tucker and trimmer provides a bi-directional tool capable of trimming and tucking in two opposite directions.

Claim 8. (Original) The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 2, wherein:

the trailings guide further comprises a second end extending away form the central portion in a direction generally opposite to the first end; and

the first and second ends extend perpendicularly to the base.

Claim 9. (Original) The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 1, further comprising:

a recess in the handle; and

a flip top cover on the handle covering the recess for enclosing and storing the at least one blade in the recess.

Claim 10. (Original) The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 1, wherein:

the base generally defines a plane; and

the blade is disposed at an angle in a range from approximately zero degrees to approximately forty-five degrees relative to the plane of the base and extending toward the base and away from the handle.

Claim 11. (Original) The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 1, wherein:

the base generally defines a plane; and

the blade is disposed at an angle in a range from approximately zero degrees to approximately ten degrees relative to the plane of the base and extending toward the base and away from the handle.

Claim 12. (Original) The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 1, wherein:

the base generally defines a plane; and

the blade is disposed at an angle in a range from approximately four degrees to approximately seven degrees relative to the plane of the base and extending toward the base and away from the handle.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A carpet trimmer and tucker tool and a blade, the tool comprising:

a base;

a handle connected to the base, wherein the combined handle and base plate comprise a base unit for the device;

at least one wheel connected to the base [or to the handle] unit;

a recess in the base, the recess receiving the blade;

structure in the recess engaging structure on the blade and holding the blade against rotation;

a pin supported on the tool and traversing the recess in a securing position;

wherein:

the blade comprises at least one through opening that is re-entrant or closed;

the pin engages the through opening in the blade and inhibits translational movement of the blade out of the recess when the pin is in the securing position; and

the pin is movable into a non-securing position that permits translational movement of the blade out of the recess.

Claim 14. (Original) The tool and blade of claim 13, wherein the pin has a polygonal cross section.

Claim 15. (Original) The tool and blade of claim 13, wherein the pin has an oblong cross section.

Claim 16. (Original) The tool and blade of claim 13, wherein:

the structure in the recess comprises a protrusion;

the structure on the blade comprises an oblong notch;

a shape of the protrusion is a compliment of a shape of the oblong notch; and

the protrusion inhibits rotation of the blade relative to the tool.

Claim 17. (Original) The tool and blade of claim 13, wherein:

the structure in the recess comprises a protrusion having a first dimension;

the structure on the blade comprises an oblong notch having a width of a second dimension; and

the first dimension is complimentary to the second dimension so that the protrusion is received into and removed from the notch in a relative translational motion.

Claim 18. (Original) The tool and blade of claim 13, wherein the tool further comprises a retaining structure for holding the pin on the tool in the securing position.

Claim 19. (Original) The tool and blade of claim 18, wherein the retaining structure further comprises:

threads on the pin; and

female threads for receiving the threads of the pin to secure the pin to the rest of the tool in the securing position.

Claim 20. (Original) The tool and blade of claim 18, wherein the retaining structure further comprises:

a notch on the pin; and

a spring pin secured to the tool and engaging the notch to hold the pin on the rest of the tool in the securing position.

Claim 21. (Original) The tool and blade of claim 18, wherein the retaining structure further comprises:

a spring biased detente on the pin; and

a recess in the tool, the recess engaged by the spring biased detente to hold the pin on the rest of the tool in the securing position.

Claim 22. (Original) The tool and the blade of claim 18, wherein:

the at least one through opening is a first through opening;

the blade further comprises a second through opening; and

the pin further has a peg for engaging the second through opening in the blade and for causing the translational movement in order to slidingly remove the blade from the recess.